

Chapter 13

Abias maketh warre agaynst Ieroboam, 4. exhorteth the people of Ifrael for iuftice, and religions fake to returne to him. 13. In the meane time Ieroboam inuironeth him with forces, but by Gods afsiftance Abias preuaileth, 21. and reigneth fecurely.

3. Reg. 15.

In the eighteenth yeare of king Ieroboam, reigned Abias ouer Iuda. ² Three yeares reigned he in Ierufalem, and his mothers name was Michaia, the daughter of Vriel of Gabaa: there was warre between Abias and Ieroboam. ³ And when Abias had begun battel, and had moft warlike men, & of chofen ones four hundreth thoufand: Ieroboam put his armie in aray on the contrarie fide, eight hundreth thoufand men, who them felues alfo were chofen men, and moft valiant to battels. ⁴ Abias therfore ftood vpon mount Semeron, which was in Ephraim, and fayd: Heare Ieroboam, and al Ifrael: ⁵ Are you ignorant that our Lord the God of Ifrael gaue the kingdom to Dauid ouer Ifrael for euer, to him and his children as a ^a)couenant of falt? ⁶ And there rofe vp Ieroboam the fonne of Nabat, the feruant of Salomon the fonne of Dauid: and rebelled agaynst his lord. ⁷ And there were gathered to him al the moft vayne men, and the children of Belial: and they preuayled agaynst Roboam the fonne of Salomon: moreouer Roboam was rude, and of a fearful hart, and could not refift them. ⁸ Now therfore you fay that you are able to refift the kingdom of our Lord, which he poffeffeth by the children of Dauid, and you haue a great multitude of people, and golden calues, which Ieroboam hath made you for goddes. ⁹ And you haue caft out the Prieftes of our Lord, the children of Aaron, and the Leuites: and you haue made you prieftes, as al the peoples of the earth: who foeuer fhall come & confecrate his hand in a bullock of oxen, and in feuen rammes, is made the priefte of them

^a A firme and perpetual couenant. *Num. 18. v. 19.*

that are not goddes. ¹⁰ But our Lord is God, whom we forsake not, and the Priestes do minister to our Lord of the children of Aaron, and the Leuites are in their order. ¹¹ Holocauftes also they do offer to our Lord, euerie day morning and euening, and incense made according to the preceptes of the law, and the loaves are set forth on a most cleane table, and there is with vs the golden candlestick, and the lampes therof, that they may be lighted alwaies at euening: for we keepe the preceptes of the Lord our God, whom you haue forsaken. ¹² Therefore in our host God is the prince, and his Priestes, which sound with trumpettes, and resound agaynst you: children of Ifrael fight not agaynst our Lord the God of your fathers, because it is not expedient for you. ¹³ He speaking these thinges, Ieroboam endeouored to entrappe him behind. And when he stood ouer agaynst the enemies, he compassed Iuda vnwitting with his armie. ¹⁴ And Iudas looking backe, saw the battel at hand before and behind, and cryed to our Lord: and the Priestes began to sound with trumpettes. ¹⁵ And al the men of Iuda made a shout: and behold they crying, God terrified Ieroboam, and al Ifrael that stood agaynst Abias and Iuda. ¹⁶ And the children of Ifrael fled from Iuda, and our Lord deliuered them into their hand. ¹⁷ Abias therefore and his people strooke them with a great slaughter, and there fell wounded of Ifrael fife hundred thousand valiant men. ¹⁸ And the children of Ifrael were humbled, at that time, and the children of Iuda exceedingly encouraged because they had trusted in our Lord the God of their fathers. ¹⁹ And Abias pursued Ieroboam fleeing, and he tooke his cities, Bethel and her daughters, and Iefana with her daughters, Ephron also and her daughters. ²⁰ Neither was Ieroboam able to resist anie more in the daies of Abias: whom our Lord strooke, and he died. ²¹ Therefore Abias, his empire being strengthened, tooke fourtene wiues: and he begat two and twentie sonnes, and sixtene daughters. ²² But the rest of the wordes of Abias, and of his waies and wordes, are written diligently in the Booke of Addo the Prophete.